



Date: December 3, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **City Report:** for Week Ending December 3, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various City activities for the week ending December 3, 2004, is provided for your information. I hope you will find the information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

The *Long Beach Report to the Community, 2003-2004*, the City's annual "Report Card," reflects the City's progress towards accomplishing the goals of the *Strategic Plan 2010*.

The *Strategic Plan 2010* established a ten-year vision for the City of Long Beach that hundreds of individuals, organizations and City employees helped to create, and was adopted by the City Council in June 2000. The *2010 Plan* reaches out to the entire community to formulate partnerships and collaborative efforts in order to achieve its multifaceted vision and, therefore, is not just a plan for City government, but a plan for Long Beach community.

The Report to the Community tracks the City's progress in accomplishing goals in six Strategic Plan areas: Neighborhood Development, Education and Youth, Community Safety, Business Growth and Workforce Development, Environment and Network Technology. It also provides a handy list of City phone numbers.

The *Report to the Community, 2003-2004*, will be distributed to civic, neighborhood and business organizations throughout the city in the next week. This colorful, 24-page document can be read on-line at www.longbeach.gov. If you would like a printed copy and haven't received one by December 10, please call 570-6379.

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MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Fire Department

On November 20, a Community Emergency Training Response Team (CERT) graduated. These 10 new members successfully completed a six-week training program covering such topics as disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology and terrorism. This year CERT has trained over 100 members of the Long Beach community and we applaud their dedication to the program and our city.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Presentations on Lincoln Park have been made to the Downtown businesses and residents, and questionnaires distributed to City Hall staff, several large residential projects and businesses. Several hundred responses have been received to date and the mid-survey tally shows a preference for a passive park, greened up with more trees and landscaping and more places to site. Final input is due by December 10.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Police

On **December 3**, the Long Beach Police Department will conduct a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Driver's License Checkpoint at Shoreline Drive and Chestnut Place. The operation will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 2 a.m. This is a joint effort with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Vernon Police Department, Long Beach Search and Rescue, Long Beach Police Explorers and representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Nationally, impaired driving caused by drugs and/or alcohol causes one death every 33 minutes. Studies show that sobriety checkpoints reduce impaired driving related accidents and increase public awareness. The checkpoint is designed to quickly screen drivers while limiting their delay to less than three minutes.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **December 5**, youth from King Park, Silverado Park, Drake Park, Admiral Kidd, Veterans Park and California Recreation Center will watch the Harlem Wizards and the Long Beach Fire Department in action at Long Beach City College. The Harlem Wizards are a traveling basketball team similar to the Harlem Globetrotters. There will be approximately 150 participants from the various sites attending the event.

Public Works

On Sunday, **December 5**, the Long Beach Airport Community Outreach will participate in the annual "Snow in Bixby" winter holiday community celebration in Bixby Knolls, from 10 am - 4 pm. Atlantic Avenue, between Bixby Road to Carson, will be closed to vehicular traffic and snow will be brought in for everyone to enjoy at this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Police

Recruit Class #80 will graduate from the Long Beach Police Academy on **December 8** at 1:00 p.m. Sixty- five recruits successfully completed 28 weeks of intense academic, physical and practical training in areas such as patrol procedures, law enforcement tactics, firearms training, weaponless defense, criminal law, vehicle operations, community orientated public safety, and cultural diversity and human relations.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The Long Beach Housing Development Company (LBHDC) will hold a first-time homebuyer seminar at the California Community Center on **December 11**. The eight-hour seminar will include a presentation about the Down Payment Assistance and Interest Rate Reduction Programs. The LBHDC's monthly first-time homebuyer seminar has been successful in educating first-time homebuyers about predatory lending. The last seminar was held at Cesar Chavez Park on November 20.

AWARDS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Business Operations Bureau

The California Department of Parks and Recreation recently awarded \$4.7 million in grant funding for two projects.

Through Proposition 40, Murray-Hayden Urban Parks and Youth Services Grant Program, funding was awarded in the amount of \$2.5 million for the construction of a teen center and the rehabilitation of the community center and gymnasium at California Recreation Park.

Through Proposition 40, Urban Parks Act of 2001 Program, funding was awarded in the amount of \$2.23 million for the acquisition of 7.18 acres of land to link Drake and Cesar E. Chavez Parks for the future creation of a greenbelt along the lower Los Angeles River.

Human Resources, Safety Office

Each year, two deserving departments (one office oriented and one with field staff) are awarded the Larry C. Larson Award for outstanding safety performance. The winners of this year's award are: Financial Management for the Office category and Parks, Recreation, and Marine for the Field category. Notable runner-ups included: City Manager, Human Resources, City Clerk, Fire and Police. Larry C. Larson was a City employee and served as the General Manager of the Water Department. He was well known in the water industry for his high safety concerns and efforts. This year marks the 15th year the City has honored Larry C. Larson by giving this prestigious award. This year's performance criteria included: Facility inspection completion rate, training compliance rate, OSHA incident rate and attendance at safety committee meetings.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The MacArthur Park Neighborhood Improvement Strategy area hosted a workshop entitled "Holiday Safety Tips" at the Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC) on November 16. Retired police officer Lieutenant Ken Shack provided valuable information about personal/home safety and advice about preventing shoplifting and other crimes.

Fire

During the last two weeks (ending November 23 and November 30), the Fire Department responded to a total of 2,071 calls for service: 229 calls for fires, of which 53 involved structures. It also responded to 1,323 emergency medical calls, of which 931 required paramedics.

Police

The Night-time Auto Theft Detective Team recovered six stolen vehicles and arrested one suspect in the 5900 block of Long Beach Boulevard on November 30. Three of the vehicles were stolen from Long Beach and three were from neighboring cities. The Police Department continues to focus on reducing the auto theft problem.

Police and Fire

Recently, the Police and Fire Press Information Details hosted a crisis communications training session at the Emergency Operations Center. Police and Fire supervisory-level employees, as well as representatives from LB Energy, Oil Properties, Airport and Parks, Recreations and Marine, attended the training. The training provided tools for building positive working relationships with the media as well as an environment where the various City spokespersons could interact as a team.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services/Redevelopment Bureau

Seventy-five residents of the Wilmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy area gathered at the Wilmore Community Police Center to hear a presentation by Redevelopment staff and architects working on a plan to improve the Wilmore Historic District on November 18. The purpose of the meeting was to identify priorities for improving the neighborhood.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Business Operations Bureau

The Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine winter class and program schedule was mailed to all Long Beach residences on November 29. This 56-page publication contains registration instructions for classes, swimming lessons, and sports leagues. Citizens can also learn more about winter break activities for youth and teens, programs for senior citizens, and programs at El Dorado Nature Center and Rancho Los Cerritos.

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NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Beach Operations staff removed twenty tons of trash from the Bluff Park area following the Thanksgiving weekend.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Plans for the repaving of the Belmont Pier Plaza have been completed.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On November 24, Silverado Park Teen Center held their monthly "Krump Conference" (dance competition) with over 100 youth participating.

Public Works, Airport

The Long Beach Airport Community Outreach team provided airport-related information to residents at the 8th Annual Long Beach Veteran's Day Parade exposition held at Houghton Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fire and Police

The Long Beach Jam's basketball season opener on November 21 began with the annual Fire vs. Police basketball game at California State University, Long Beach. Tickets sold by the Fire and Police Departments included a BBQ meal that was prepared by the Long Beach Firefighter's Association. Monies raised from ticket sales were donated to charities such as the Rescue Youth program.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On December 3, the Long Beach Senior Center celebrated its 26th Birthday. Over 150 people browsed the Share Fair and received information on the Center's many activities, programs, clubs and services offered to seniors. Students from California State University, Long Beach provided volunteers who were also part of the scheduled entertainment.

On November 23, Belmont Olympic Plaza Pool hosted the final round of CIF-SS-Toyota 2004 Boys Water Polo Championships. Over 2,000 spectators watched as two high schools from Southern California competed to claim the title "2004 Boys Water Polo Champion."

Rancho Los Cerritos' Candlelight Christmas tours on Friday and Saturday are sold out. The popular holiday program featured historic characters re-enacting a Christmas celebration in 1850, and included a scene in Spanish from Las Pastoreles by students from Wilson and Poly high schools. Following their tours, guests will enjoy Mexican hot chocolate and pastries, as well as seasonal music by Voxinglero. This annual program is a joint effort with Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, the museum's volunteer support group.

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SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

A Community Action Team Turkey Trot 5K and 10K, with an estimated attendance of 1,000, was held on November 25 on the bike path near the Belmont Pool.

Warner Brothers, with a cast and crew of 80, filmed "Cold Case" on December 3 on 3rd St.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works Department - Airport

Long Beach Airport parking facilities had a 9.7 percent increase in parked vehicles during the recent Thanksgiving holiday weekend compared to the same period in 2003. "Collected tickets" from Friday through Sunday totaled 6,854 in 2004, versus 6,249 in 2003.

On-Airport surface parking lots were filled to capacity on Wednesday, November 24, with Remote Parking Lot D reaching capacity early Thursday morning and the parking structure filling up shortly thereafter. In order to accommodate customer demand, a number of vehicles were parked in areas other than designated parking spots.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,075 service calls, including 541 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 441 Turn Off orders. There were 970 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 123-meter maintenance and billing-related orders, as well as 145 customer emergency orders were completed.

GRM:kp
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cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
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